

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00162 100230Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05

SS-15 STR-05 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-11 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-10 /155 W

-----102520 100235Z /70

R 100203Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8588

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD GATT UK KS

SUBJ: EC/UK RESTRICTIONS ON KOREAN TELEVISIONS

REF: (A) STATE 001827, (B) LONDON 00276, (C) 77 GENEVA 12207

1. MR. NO YOUNG-WOOK (EUROPE SECTION, 3RD MARKET DIVISION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY) GENERALLY CONFIRMED INFO CONTAINED REFTEL (B), STATING THAT DURING 1977 CONSULTATIONS WITH UK, BRITISH GOVT SIDE ASKED ROK TO REGULATE ITS EXPORTS OF BLACK AND WHITE TV SETS TO UK. NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED, SO BRITISH INITIATED QUOTA OF 35,000 SETS EACH IN 1977 AND 1978, UNDER GATT ARTICLE XIX. MR. NO EMPHASIZED THAT ACTION WAS STRICTLY UNILATERAL, WITH NO AGREEMENT ON PART OF ROKG. MR. NO SAID ROKG IS NOT TRYING TO REGULATE OR CONTROL EXPORTS, THAT THAT IS BEING LEFT TO THE UK. HE NOTED THAT OF THE 70,000 SETS ALLOCATED FOR 1977 AND 1978, APPROXIMATELY

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 00162 100230Z

60,000 HAVE ALREADY BEEN EXPORTED. HE ASSUMED THE BRITISH WILL CEASE TO ACCEPT IMPORTS AFTER THE 70,000 TOTAL HAS BEEN REACHED.

2. MR. NO SAID THAT ROKG IS NOW STUDYING WHETHER TO SUBMIT SOME SORT OF PROTEST TO THE GATT, BUT THAT A DECISION ON THIS HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE.

3. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONN, NOH JIN-SIK (DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE PROMOTION, MCI) RECONFIRMED GIST OF PARAS 1-2, ADDING THAT HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THAT KOREA WOULD RAISE A FORMAL PROTEST OVER ECUK ACTION. SUCH ACTION, HE BELIEVES, WOULD SIMPLY RAISE TEMPERATURES WITHOUT ACHIEVING ANY CONCRETE RESULT AND COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE IN TERMS OF KOREA'S BROAD BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS WITH UK. WHILE KOREAN TV MANUFACTURERS WOULD CERTAINLY SUFFER IN 1978, THEY COULD DRAW SOME HOPE FROM BRITISH ASSURANCES THAT SPECIAL RESTRICTIVE MEASURES WOULD REMAIN IN EFFECT ONLY FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES FOR UK TV INDUSTRY TO MAKE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS. NOH NOTED ALSO THAT SIMILAR (THOUGH MORE GENEROUS) QUOTAS HAD BEEN IMPOSED ON BLACK AND WHITE TV SETS FROM SINGAPORE AND HONG KONG, PRIOR TO ACTION AGAINST KOREA.

4. ABOVE NOTWITHSTANDING, NOH STATED STRONG BELIEF THAT UNILATERAL ARTICLE XIX ACTION WOULD HOLD KOREAN TV IMPORT MARKET SHARE IN UK FAR BELOW WHAT COULD BE EXPECTED IN ABSENCE OF RESTRICTIONS. HE THINKS IT LIKELY THAT KOREANS WILL AT LEAST QUOTE MENTION UNQUOTE THEIR OBJECTION WITHIN GATT FRAMEWORK AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.
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PAGE 03 SEOUL 00162 100230Z

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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